

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14065 302029Z

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ACTION EUR-10

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S E C R E T LONDON 14065

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR USDEL SALT II: VIENNA FOR US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NUCLEAR MATTERS, STABILIZING MEASURES

REF: (A) VIENNA 9842, (B) STATE 234877

1. WE CALLED ON BRAITHWAITE OF FCO TODAY TO GET HIS REACTION TO UK/FRG TALKS ON MBFR HELD IN LONDON NOV 29. HE SAID MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO COORDINATE WITH FRG ON PREPARATIONS FOR TRILATERAL US/UK/FRG DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF MBFR. MAIN ACTIVITY OF MEETING INVOLVED DRAWING UP JOINT UK/FRG QUESTIONS TO PUT TO U.S. SOMETIME DURING WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 2. HMG HOPES THIS PROCESS WOULD PERMIT USEFUL TRILATERAL SOMETIME IN EARLY JANUARY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 14065 302029Z

2. BRAITHWAITE SAID THAT MUCH OF NOVEMBER 29 CONVER-

SATION WAS DEVOTED TO QUESTION OF HANDLING NUCLEAR ASPECTS WITHIN NATO. RECOGNIZING THAT NUCLEAR COMPONENT IS THE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL LEVER AVAILABLE TO ALLIES, UK AND FRG FEEL THAT ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN FULL NATO FORUM AT AN EARLY DATE TO ASSURE THAT ALLIED POSITION DOES NOT LEAK TO EASTERN BLOC. THUS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT UK WILL PRESS FOR A WIDE-RANGING NATO STUDY ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS AT AN EARLY DATE BUT WILL HOPE TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS WITHIN TRILATERAL FORUM AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

3. IT IS CLEAR FROM BRAITHWAIT'S COMMENTS THAT HMG DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT OPTION 3 OF U.S. APRIL 30 PAPER REPRESENTS THE AGREED NATO POSITION ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT WHILE OPTION 3 IS ONLY PAPER WHICH TOUCHES THIS SUBJECT MUCH MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS. THUS, SOME OF UK/FRG QUESTIONS TO U.S. WILL ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE, E.G., WARHEAD VS. LAUNCHER LIMITATIONS. THIS IMPLIES THAT HMG MIGHT WISH TO ACHIEVE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT ON A DETAILED PAPER WHICH WOULD BE RAISED IN THE FULL NATO FORUM ONLY WHEN VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRE AN ALLIED RESPONSE ON NUCLEAR ISSUE.

4. ON CONSTRAINTS, BRAITHWAITE MENTIONED THAT UK IS CONCERNED THAT FULL IMPLICATIONS OF MOST RECENT U.S. PROPOSALS ARE NOT CLEAR AND WILL REQUIRE MUCH STUDY. HMG PROBABLY WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PRESENTATION OF CONSTRAINT TITLES AS SUGGESTED REF (B) IF IT CLEAR THAT ONLY U.S. FORCES AFFECTED. IF U.K. FORCES ARE INVOLVED HMG WOULD HAVE TO INSIST ON INCLUSION DETAILS WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF EACH CONSTRAINT. HMG STILL HOPES AVOID CONSTRAINTS THAT INVOLVE A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIET BLOC.

ANNENBERG

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